

The President's Daily Brief

18 February 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Several new infiltration groups [redacted] 50X1
in the pipeline in North Vietnam. (Page 1)

In Laos, the enemy made a probing attack yesterday
against General Vang Pao's headquarters at Long
Tieng. (Page 2)

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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NORTH VIETNAM

The flow of infiltrators has resumed after a
short break, presumably for the Tet holidays. [redacted]

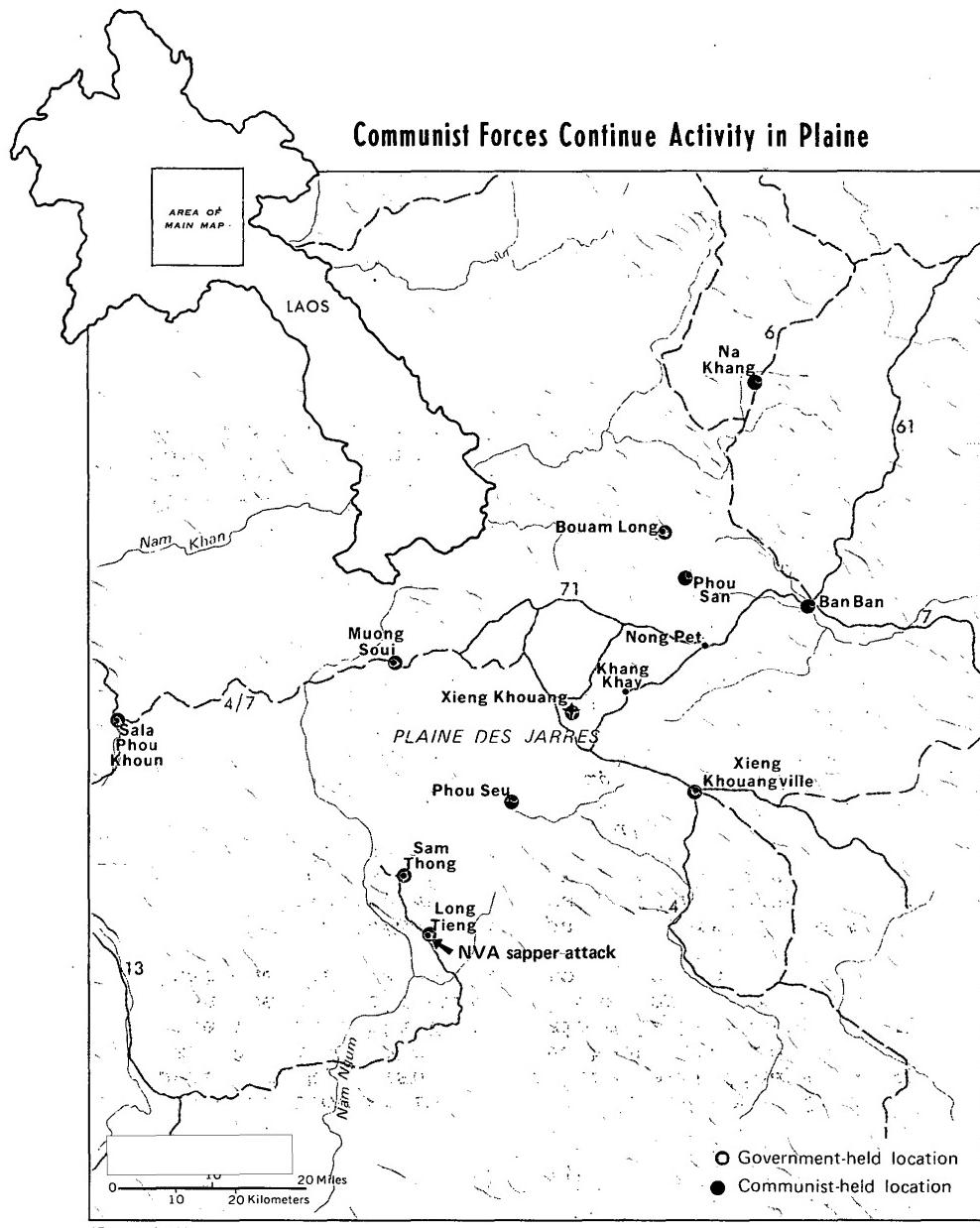
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LAOS

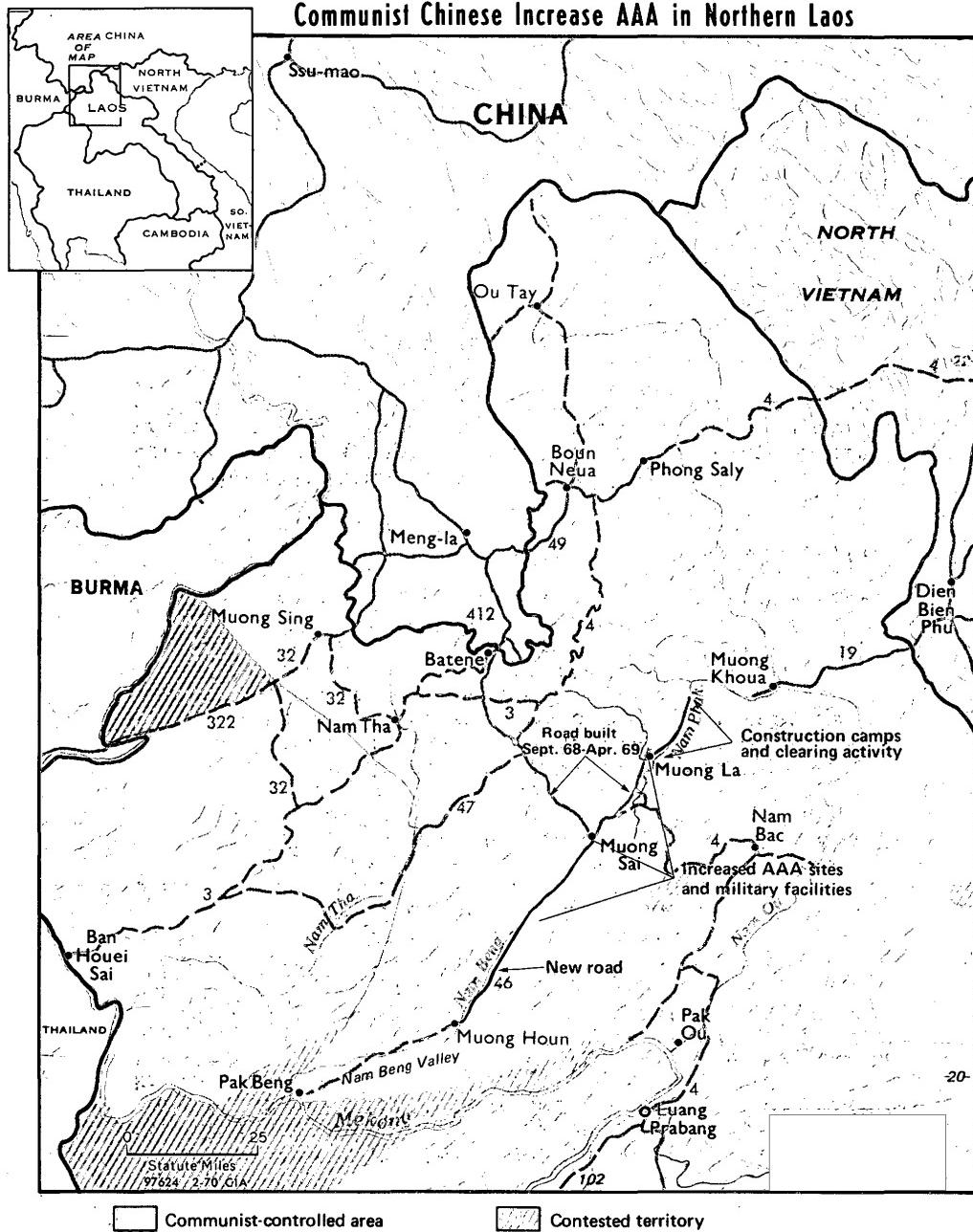
A small North Vietnamese sapper team raided the airstrip at Long Tieng last evening, destroying one observation aircraft. Four of the attackers were killed; the government lost one officer. This was the first enemy probe against General Vang Pao's headquarters.

Long Tieng, the key to Vang Pao's effort in the northeast, is defended by about 1,000 troops. The attack probably was intended to confuse the Meo leader's forces and to compel him to pull troops off the Plaine des Jarres to defend the large number of Meos in the Long Tieng area.

There is no evidence at this time to suggest that the enemy is prepared to initiate a major thrust against Long Tieng. The terrain between this point and the Plaine is a formidable obstacle to any large-scale enemy operations in the area. In addition, the complex of Meo villages surrounding the base would make it difficult for the enemy to move into the area in strength without the government receiving adequate warning.

The situation around Xieng Khouang airstrip appears to have eased. A battalion of enemy troops, which had dug in near the airfield, was driven off early this morning. Government troops are pursuing this Communist force.

Communist Chinese Increase AAA in Northern Laos



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Communist-controlled area

Contested territory

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COMMUNIST CHINA - LAOS

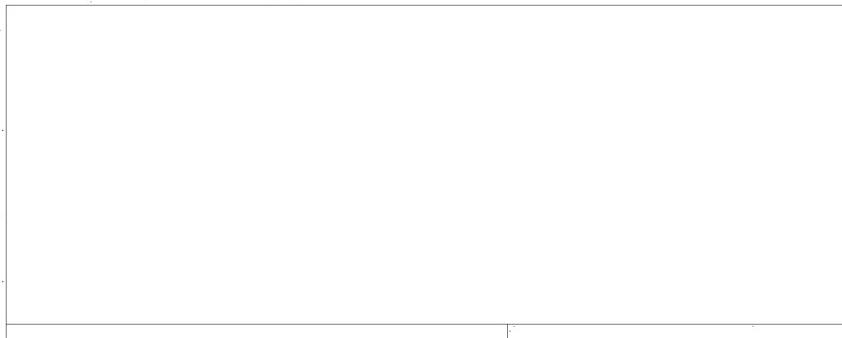
Recent aerial photography shows that the number of occupied Chinese antiaircraft artillery sites in northwestern Laos has more than tripled since mid-December. The greatest increase has been in the Muong Sai - Muong La areas and along the new road to Muong Houn. The positions are intended to protect road construction workers.

The presence of an AAA force of this size--larger than a normal division--raises our estimate of Chinese troops in Laos to 8-10,000, an increase of 3,000 over previous estimates. The total includes engineer elements and security forces, as well as AAA units.

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SAUDI ARABIA

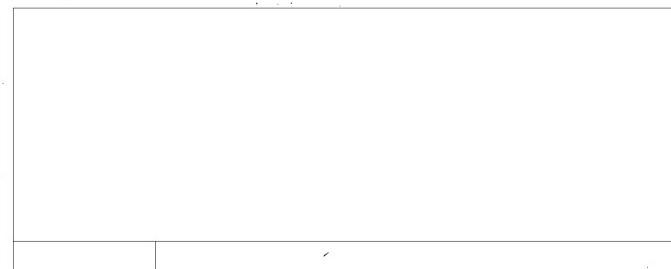


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NOTES

USSR:

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USSR - Middle East: Soviet news media

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[redacted] denounce Israeli military activities
in uncommonly harsh terms. A TASS statement this
week flatly stated, "The Soviet Union will render
the necessary support to the Arab states in strength-
ening their ability to uphold their security." So
far Moscow's warnings have been unofficial and in
general terms, a type of propaganda which is not
likely to deter the Israelis.

West Germany - East Germany: Chancellor Brandt
has accepted East German Premier Stoph's offer to
hold talks

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